NORTH – SOUTH KOREA

Red Cross Talks

July 15
1972
No. 3
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Information Bulletin of the CC of the DPRK Red Cross Society

The 22nd Sitting of Preliminary Talks between North and South Korean Red Cross Societies Held

The 22nd sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies was held at Panmunjom on July 14.

The Red Cross delegates of the north and the south had a pleasant talk while reporters and cameramen of the north and the south were covering news inside the room. They entered into discussion when the room was put in order.

The meeting first discussed the question of the heads of the delegations to the full-dress talks on which no agreement had been reached at the 21st sitting of the preliminary talks.

On the basis of its study of our side's proposal advanced at the 1st and 21st sittings of the preliminary talks, the south Korean side brought forward an amendment suggesting that either the chiefs or the deputy chiefs of the two Red Cross societies be appointed as heads of the delegations.

Our side stated that it was desirable to definitely decide upon one of the two, chief and deputy chief of each Red Cross society, as head of its delegation at the 22nd sitting which should proceed to another question after deciding the ranks of the delegation heads, but that there was no need to waste time on this problem which was not so big in view of the fact that the talks were bilateral ones and, especially, considering that the historic north-south joint statement based on the three principles of national reunification had been made public and the whole nation was now expecting its successful implementation. Taking into account the circumstances that the south Korean side found it hard to decide upon the head of its delegation right now, our side agreed to the proposal of the south Korean side to definitively choose either the chiefs or deputy chiefs of the two Red Cross societies as the heads of the delegations.

Thus, the two sides reached a complete unanimity of views already at the beginning of the meeting on the question concerning the heads of the delegations to the full-dress talks.

Then the meeting went over to the discussion of the question of those accompanying the delegations to the full-dress talks.

In this connection, the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took one more important initiative. Our side proposed that 5 to 7 advisors comprising representatives of the Government, the Supreme People's Assembly, political parties and public organizations be made to accompany the delegation to the full-dress talks to assist it in solving promptly, accurately and smoothly on the spot the problems arising in the discussion of the agenda items at the full-dress talks to be held amid the concern of the whole nation, and in the course of the implementation of the items.

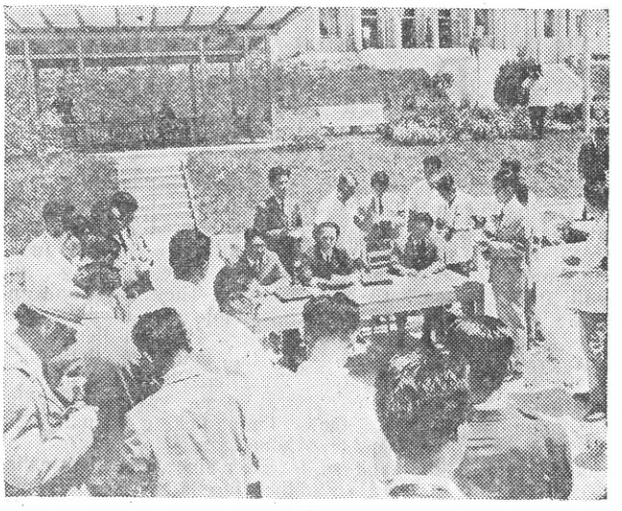
Speaking at the meeting, Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation of our side, said that the advisors comprising representatives of the Government, the Supreme People's Assembly, political parties and public organizations would render active assistance so that the Red Cross talks might proceed in keeping with the expectation and desire of the compatriots dispersed in the north and the south and the broad masses of the people, by correctly reflecting the desire and opinions of the masses of the people of all strata in the discussion of the agenda items at the full-dress talks and in the implementation of the items, according to the three principles of the country's reunification and all other points explicitly stipulated in the north-south joint statement and the character of the Red Cross and its humanitarian spirit of cooperation.

He stressed that it was one of the basic factors for the smooth progress of the Red Cross work to unite the efforts of the Red Cross societies of the north and the south and get the active support and cooperation of the authorities, political and public circles and all strata of people of the north and the south in the weighty and vast work for alleviating the sufferings of the compatriots scattered in the north and the south.

The south Korean side showed understanding for the proposal of our side on letting advisors accompany the delegations to the full-dress talks. It was decided at the meeting to discuss this matter again later after the south Korean side made a deep-going study of the proposal of our side.

It was agreed upon at the meeting to have the 23rd sitting of the preliminary talks on July 19.

After the meeting, Kim Dok Hyon, deputy head and the spokesman, of the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received reporters of the north and the south on the spot and stressed the justness of the proposal of our side on letting advisors accompany the delegations to the full-dress talks.



The spokesman of the DPRK Red Cross delegation at press conference with the journalists from the north and the south after the 22nd sitting of the preliminary talks

The South Korean Red Cross Society Should Take the Stand of Warm Compatriotic Love and Humanitarianism

Statement of Son Song Pil, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Son Song Pil, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a following statement on July 9 in support of the north-south joint statement.

I, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, fully support and welcome the three principles for the national reunification advanced by the great Leader Premier Kim Il Sung and the north-south joint statement which his principles underlie.

The announcement of the north-south joint statement is a glorious victory of the line for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country—the line manifested by the respected and beloved Leader Premier Kim Il Sung based on his great, brilliant idea of *Juche*; it is also a splendid result of the wise and seasoned leadership of the Premier confidently guiding our people to national reunification.

Having defined national reunification as the supreme task of our nation, the Leader has always been paying deep attention to the reunification question. In his speech of August 6 last year he again clarified the policy of our Party and the Government of the Republic on independent, peaceful reunification and put forward the new, magnanimous proposals for national salvation.

The opening of the current north-south Red Cross talks signified the first fruit of his idea.

In his talk with the Managing Director of the Japanese newspaper **Asahi Shimbun** and with a journalist of the Kyodo News Agency, in his New Year address this year, in his answers to the questions raised by the newsmen of Japanese paper **Yomiuri Shimbun** and in his talk with the journalists of U.S. newspaper the **New York Times,** the Leader repeatedly made the most fair and reasonable and patriotic proposals for reunification in conformity with the changed situation and opened up the bright road for the independent, peaceful reunification for our people. And this time in particular he set forth the three clear-cut principles for the reunification of the country.

All this has led our people to this historic juncture for the announcement of the north-south joint statement and to a new historical turning point for national reunification.

The north-south joint statement stipulates that the two sides shall actively co-operate to bring to an early success the north-south Red Cross talks now underway amid the great expectation of the whole nation.

This means a new favourable condition for the successful progress of the Red Cross talks.

It is the unanimous desire of the whole nation to see the Red Cross talks successful so that the sufferings of families, relatives and friends dispersed in the north and south may be alleviated at the earliest possible date.

The respected and beloved Leader Premier Kim Il Sung said:

"Our stand on the talks between the north and south Red Cross organizations is clear. We want to mitigate even a day earlier the sufferings our people are undergoing owing to the division, by bringing the talks to a success with all our sincerity and pave the way, with it as a stepping stone, to the peaceful reunification of the country."

The Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society will, in the future too, as in the past, make all its sincere efforts so that the north-south Red Cross talks can be successful in accordance with the national desire and aspiration.

We firmly maintain that the south Korean Red Cross society sincerely approach the talks on the standpoint of compatriotic love and humanitarianism so as to bring the preliminary talks to an earliest conclusion for the opening of the full-dress talks and to have the agreed agenda of the full-dress talks discussed properly, to answer the expectations of the entire Korean people.

The Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society will continue to make positive efforts to accelerate the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, true to the three principles for the national reunification set forth by the respected and beloved Leader Premier Kim Il Sung.

Panmunjom (1)

Panmunjom, now widely known to the world, is located in the central part of Korea. But it is the farthest point one can travel to the south from the northern half of the Republic, for it is on the Military Demarcation Line drawn up as a result of the U.S. imperialists' occupation of south Korea.

Panmunjom is one of the lovely spots of our country which is called the land of golden tapestry.

The historical records show that people began to inhabit this wayside village about one thousand and several hundred years ago.

In those days some 20 houses nestled together here. The villagers enjoyed an amicable life, fishing and farming. They were kind and hospitable and used to offer shelters for travellers going to the south or the north. Travellers liked to have a rest or stay overnight in this village, making themselves at home.

Ever since, travellers called the place a "village of inns" where one could expect quite a hospitable service.

The vicious U.S. imperialist aggressors, who had never failed in their aggression and predatory wars, launched an armed invasion against the northern half of the Republic with a dream of winning "glorious victory."

Gun's roars shook this hamlet, and the village was devastated.

The enemy miscalculated grossly.

The heroic Korean people, rallied close around the great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and military strategist of genius, dealt smashing blows to the enemy and humbled his pride.

The aggressors were defeated in the war, unable to seize even an inch of land of the northern half of the Republic, despite their loss of more than one million troops.

The U.S. imperialists bent their knees to the Korean people, a "white flag" in hands and signed the "instrument of surrender."

They lamented:

"The myth has blown away. We were not so strong a country as others had considered."

Such a historic event took place right at Panmunjom. From then on it became known to the world as a historic place symbolic of the dignity and honour of the heroic Korean people.

The building where the U.S. imperialist aggressors signed the Korean Armistice Agreement is still preserved here as a memory of the historic event.

It is a octagonal Korean-styled building located in our portion of the Demilitarized

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Line of Independent, Peaceful National Reunification—Most Fair, Reasonable and Realistic Line

With the opening of the preliminary talks between the Red Cross organizations of north and south Korea at Panmunjom, the Koreans have now sit around the conference table for the first time in the 27 years since liberation to discuss the important question of alleviating the misery and suffering of those who have been separated from each other to the north and south.

The talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations signify a victorious fruition of the line of an independent, peaceful national reunification set forth by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the Korean people; they are the result of the consistent and sincere efforts of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic to carry it out.

The great Leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung taught:

"The basic line of national reunification maintained all along by the Government of our Republic is to reunify the north and south by the Korean people themselves independently on democratic principles without any interference of outside forces following the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea."

The line of reunifying the country peacefully on an independent basis reflects an unswerving spirit of national independence to solve the Korean question by the Korean people themselves, rejecting foreign interference. It is the most fair and reasonable line that makes it possible to solve the question of reunification on democratic principles in accordance with the free will of the people of all strata in north and south Korea.

As widely known to the world, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic have always maintained that the reunification problem, an internal affair of our nation, should be settled independently and peacefully along democratic lines without foreign interference.

The basic way of national reunification we have consistently advocated on this principle ever since liberation is to set up a unified democratic central government through free north-south general elections after the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

This proposal for national reunification presupposes the withdrawal of all the foreign troops from south Korea.

The great Leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung taught:

"The occupation of south Korea by U.S. imperialism and its aggressive policy constitute the source of all the miseries of our nation and the main obstacle to the reunification of Korea. For the attainment of Korean reunification, therefore, the U.S. imperialist aggressors should get out of south Korea, first of all."

The question of Korea's reunification is an internal affair of the Korean people, precluding any interference of outside forces. The Korean question, therefore, should be solved by the Korean people themselves in accordance with their free will. No foreigner can ever settle our internal question.

The Korean nation is an industrious and patriotic nation with a strong sense of unity; they are a resourceful and civilized nation who have a long history of 5,000 years and brilliant cultural traditions and have established a powerful socialist system in the half of their territory, having repelled the foreign aggressors. They are fully able to solve their own problems by themselves.

The main obstacle to the independent, peaceful settlement of the question of Korean reunification is none other than U.S. imperialism which has occupied south Korea militarily, meddles in the internal affairs of our country, pursues the policy of national split, eggs the aggressive forces of Japanese militarism on to invade south Korea again and carries on the policy of aggression on the whole of Korea. As long as the U.S. imperialist aggressors remain in south Korea, national independence and sovereignty cannot be guaranteed, nor the people can express their will freely.

North-south general elections should be held in a free and democratic atmosphere after driving out the U.S. imperialist aggressors, precluding foreign interference and eliminating all the factors that might hamper or repress, to the slightest degree, the expression of the people's will.

The Korean people's great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung taught:

"North-south general elections should be held on condition that foreign troops are withdrawn and any foreign interference is precluded and, at the same time, complete freedom of activity of political parties as well as the freedom and rights of the masses of the people are adequately ensured."

There will be no free and democratic election so long as the democratic rights of the people are violated and their patriotic movements suppressed.

For the free north-south general elections, the freedom of political activities should first be guaranteed throughout north and south Korea.

All the political parties, social organizations and individuals should be allowed, without any restriction, to publicize openly their platforms and political views among the people and to do free political activities in any part of the country. The people should have the liberty of seeing the realities of north and south Korea so that they themselves may judge what is right or wrong. They should also be at liberty to discuss and decide which way to go for national independence and prosperity.

Furthermore, the freedom of speech, press, assembly, association and demonstration should be fully guaranteed.

All the citizens should have equal rights to elect and to be elected in any part of Korea, irrespective of their party affiliation, political views, property status, education, religious beliefs and

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Zone.

In those days the place was a mere expanse of fields.

Admitting their ignominious defeat and driven into a blind alley by the Korean people under the wise leadership of the great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the U.S. imperialists imploringly proposed to sign the Armistice Agreement in makeshift tent.

No wonder that the enemy should behave like that since they had to come with a "white flag," unable to find a way out of the predicament in the flames of the war they had ignited.

But our side categorically rejected the shameless proposal and built the historic building in a matter of five days to show the coming generations what an ignominious defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors suffered.

In the building are preserved intact the tables and other things used for the signing of the Armistice Agreement in July 1953.

Here are also shown a number of photos and materials which illustrate how the U.S. imperialist aggressors were defeated in the Fatherland Liberation War and how they have been manoeuvring to ignite another war in the postwar period.

Panmunjom is indeed a place of glory, fully demonstrating the mettle, courage, dignity and pride of the heroic Korean people who live and fight under the guidance of the great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The North-South Joint Statement Will Give Dynamic Stimulus to the North-South Red Cross Talks,

Say the People in the Northern Half of the DPRK

The announcement of the north-south joint statement based on the three principles laid down by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the Korean people, for national reunification is calling forth great repercussion among the people in the northern half of the DPRK who want to see a success in the talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies as soon as possible.

They whole-heartedly support and hail the three principles put forward by the great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung for national reunification and the north-south joint statement based on them.

A worker of the Chollima Hwanghae Iron Works had this to say:

"The recent joint statement has made it clear in unison that the three principles of national reunification set forth by the Leader serve as the common programme of the north and the south for the reunification. This provides us with a groundwork and precondition to the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, and brings in a new historical era in which it can be achieved by joint efforts of the north and the south.

"This is, indeed, a historic event that brightens the prospects of national reunification."

A co-op farmer of the Chollima Mangyongdae Co-operative Farm said:

"The recent north-south high-level talks and the announcement of the north-south joint statement have shown that if Koreans sit face to face with each other for negotiations, they will be able to attain the peaceful reunification of the country by their own efforts and that we Koreans have already entered the stage of settling the Korean question with our own strength without the interference of the U.S. imperialist aggressors.... I warmly support and welcome the three principles of national reunification clarified by the respected and beloved Leader Premier Kim Il Sung and the north-south joint statement based on them."

The people in the northern half of the Republic are unanimous in saying that the north-south Red Cross talks will be further accelerated by the announcement of the north-south joint statement. They hope with great pleasure that the Red Cross talks will be brought to a successful conclusion at the earliest date.

An engineer of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant remarked:

"In the north-south joint statement of July 4 the two sides agreed on rendering active assistance in bringing the north-south Red Cross talks to an early success. This agreement means that favourable conditions have been created for the successful progress of the north-south Red Cross talks. My native village is in the southern half. It is my heartfelt hope that the talks will be brought to an earliest conclusion and the fellow-countrymen in the north and south will travel freely."

"On the evening of the day of the announcement of the north-south joint statement," said a woman worker of the Kaesong Textile Mill, "my families all got together at home, held a session for reading out the joint statement and had a lively chat till late at night with overwhelming emotion and excitement. There is no doubt that the statement will give dynamic stimulus to the north-south Red Cross talks.

That evening I felt with the unbearable joy as though I could reunite with my mother and elder brother in Seoul right away."

A member of the Youth Shock Brigade for Metropolitan Construction of Pyongyang pointed out:

"At the moment I heard the news of the north-south joint statement I could picture in my mind the day of national reunification. I was much pleased and moved by a thought that the day is near at hand when I meet my grand parents and relatives in North Kyongsang Province.

I firmly believe that the day is sure to come before long."

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sex.

When these conditions are ensured, genuinely democratic elections— universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot—can be held. Only then can a unified, independent and democratic government be established which represents the interests of the people from all walks of life—workers, peasants, youth, students, intellectuals, soldiers, merchants and entrepreneurs.

This proposal of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic is most fair, realistic and reasonable; it is acceptable to everyone and realizable if united effort is made.

The south Korean authorities, however, are clamouring for the so-called "UN-supervised elections" just as they have done hitherto, incessantly opposing this just proposal.

The Korean people know too well the truth of "elections under UN supervision." Through the "elections under UN supervision" held in accordance with the resolution of the "United Nations Little Assembly" convened in February 1948 under the U.S. imperialist coercion, the seizure of political power by all the successive rulers of south Korea has been legalized, and the tragedy of the territorial division and national split has become worse. This is an open secret.

"Elections under UN supervision" are nothing but a screen to cover the aggressive schemes of the U.S imperialists to extend their colonial system in south Korea to northern half of the Republic.

The UN has no right to meddle in the Korean question because it has been used as a tool of aggression in Korea by the U.S. imperialists.

This is not an attitude to settle the matter. In fact, this amounts to perpetuating the split of our country and nation and aggravating the misfortunes and sufferings of our fellow countrymen.

In order to put an earliest end to the tragedies caused by the territorial division and national split Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the Korean people, again set forth in last May the three principles of national reunification—to reunify the country independently without interference of outside force and peacefully and to promote great national unity transcending the differences of ideology, ideal and social system. Thus, the north-south joint statement based on the three principles was issued on July 4.

Now the statement is being warmly supported and welcomed by the people of the whole world, to say nothing of the people in north and south Korea.

Our nation have lived harmoniously in the same country and on the same land generation after generation for 5,000 years. They must promote great national unity and help and rely on each other, sharing life and death, sweets and bitters rather than clinging to foreign forces, betraying their compatriots. They cannot live with foreign enemies, forsaking their brothers.

No force can ever check the strong desire of the north and south Korean people for national reunification. The day will certainly come when the line of independent, peaceful reunification of the country consistently advocated by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic will be materialized, when the Korean nation will put an end to the tragedy of national split and live amicably as one big family in a unified country.

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